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SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF FORESTRY,
KANSAS,

FOR THE YEARS 1891-'92.

GEO. V. BARTLETT, COMMISSIONER.

TOPEKA.
PRESS OF THE HAMILTON PRINTING COMPANY:
EDWIN H. SNOW, State Printer.
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REPORT.

DODGE CITY, KAS., December 31, 1892.

To Lyman U. Humphrey, Governor of Kansas:

SIR—I beg to herewith present my report of operations as State Forestry Commissioner for 1891-'92.

I had the honor to be commissioned by your excellency on the 11th day of March, 1891, and immediately thereafter repaired to the Forestry Station at Ogallah, Trego county, and took charge of the delivery of trees to fill orders which had been received during the previous year. Owing to circumstances which need not be mentioned in this report, no delivery had been made from this Station in 1890, and the trees had grown to a size which prevented shipment, without making a drain upon the freight account not contemplated in the appropriation of funds for that specific purpose. However, the delivery was effected by notices being sent to claimants to call for their trees with their own conveyances, to which nearly all responded.

The Dodge City Station has been in my charge since its first establishment and deliveries have been regularly made each year. As orders are received they are duly recorded, and filled in the order received.

With notices of shipments made to claimants, requests have been included for a report from the grower of the results, in a general way, and also as to each variety. These requests have been answered by most of those receiving trees, and nearly all reports express perfect success in the growth of all varieties delivered. Where failures have been reported, subsequent personal investigation of the circumstances has developed the fact that the failures were entirely owing to neglect after transplanting by the grower.

About February 20 of each year, a careful count is made of the total number of healthy, growing trees at the Station, and this number is divided by the number of orders received, which gives the number to which each claimant is entitled. The number of trees wanted is always in excess of the number grown. In the two years of my Commissionership, there have been delivered 4,250,000 trees.

The varieties giving the best results are, in the order of excellence: Black locust, honey-locust, black walnut, white oak, white ash, coffee-bean, soft maple, ailantus, and catalpa. Other varieties grown successfully, having no special differences as to value, are: Red oak, black oak, chestnut, white birch,

black birch, sycamore, silver maple, Lombardy poplar, Russian mulberry, cypress, live oak, gray willow, red willow, osier willow, "Iowa" willow, and box-elder.

For the general promotion of the art of forestry as contemplated by your honorable legislators, I have planted and grown nearly all the forest trees indigenous to this latitude in the United States, such as black wild cherry, shell-bark hickory, yellow poplar, magnolia, dogwood, cottonwood, larch, Osage orange, red elm, white elm, hackberry, white pine, yellow pine, spruce, hemlock, red cedar, white cedar, and arbor vitæ.

At leisure hours, I have planted and successfully grown several different varieties of apples, peaches, plums, and grapes.

Replying to requests for information on the subject of cultivating forest trees in western Kansas, I have written 723 letters, in which was stated my experience and that of my predecessors, and also full directions for the planting and care of the trees delivered. I have found personal correspondence in this direction much more satisfactory and effective than printed circulars.

Henceforth, these Forestry Stations can be conducted at less expense than while they were at the experimental stage, since the ground is older in cultivation, and all machinery and implements are at hand for future use.

The land at both Stations is now in thoroughly good condition, free from weeds, and in fine tilth. The buildings erected by the State, and all out-houses, stables, wells, pumps, windmills, fences, etc., are in good repair and effective working order.

I suggest that appropriations for the two years next ensuing be approximately as follows:

Salaries (Commissioner and foreman).....	\$1,200 00
Seeds, cuttings, etc.....	500 00
Freight, labor, etc.....	2,000 00
Commissioner's traveling expenses.....	200 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. V. BARTLETT, *State Forestry Commissioner.*



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